Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force

Incident Information

URN: 919-04866-0492-054	Date: 04/04/2019	Time: 2120 hours	
Location: [redacted] S. Colima Road	City or Station: Whittier		
Bureau/Station/Facility: Norwalk Station	Admin. Investigation: ○ YES ◉ NO		
Type of Force: Control Holds / Resistive Handcuffing (Broken Humerus)			
Incident Category: ○ 1 ○ 2 ◉ 3	Deputy Injury: ○ YES ◉ NO	Suspect Injury: ◉ YES ○ NO	
☒ Call ☐ Observation ☐ Detail	☐ Foot Pursuit ☐ Vehicle Pursuit		
IAB Notified: ◉ YES ○ NO	Person Notified: Lt. Powers	Emp: [redacted]	IAB Roll Out: ◉ YES ○ NO

Involved Employee

E1

Employee #: [redacted]	Last Name: Perez	First Name: Joseph	Middle I.:	Rank: DSG	
Sex: ◉ M ○ F	Race: H	Height: 510	Weight: 215	Age: [redacted]	Shift: ○ EM ○ Day ◉ PM — ◉ Regular Shift ○ OT Shift ○ Off Duty
Unit of Assignment: Norwalk Station	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): Unit 48A				
Individual Force Used: Control Holds / Resistive Handcuffing	○ Directed ○ Rescue ○ Medical Assist	Individual Category: ○ 1 ○ 2 ◉ 3			
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted	Facility:	Coroner Case #:			

E2

Employee #: [redacted]	Last Name: [redacted]	First Name: [redacted]	Middle I.: [redacted]	Rank: B-I	
Sex: ◉ M ○ F	Race: H	Height: 509	Weight: 175	Age: [redacted]	Shift: ○ EM ○ Day ◉ PM — ◉ Regular Shift ○ OT Shift ○ Off Duty
Unit of Assignment: Norwalk Station	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): Unit 48B				
Individual Force Used: Control Holds / Resistive Handcuffing	○ Directed ○ Rescue ○ Medical Assist	Individual Category: ◉ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3			
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted	Facility:	Coroner Case #:			

E3

Employee #: [redacted]	Last Name: [redacted]	First Name: [redacted]	Middle I.: [redacted]	Rank: DSG	
Sex: ◉ M ○ F	Race: H	Height: 603	Weight: 200	Age: [redacted]	Shift: ○ EM ○ Day ◉ PM — ◉ Regular Shift ○ OT Shift ○ Off Duty
Unit of Assignment: Norwalk Station	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): Unit 48B				
Individual Force Used: Control Hold	○ Directed ○ Rescue ○ Medical Assist	Individual Category: ◉ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3			
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted	Facility:	Coroner Case #:			

On Duty Supervisor

☐ Additional Involved Employees

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle I.	Rank	Present	Witness to Incident
[redacted]	Rodriguez	Oscar		Sgt.	YES ○ NO ◉	YES ○ NO ◉

Supervisor Completing Investigation

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle I.	Rank	Present	Witness to Incident
[redacted]	Ortega	Henry	M.	Sgt.	YES ○ NO ◉	YES ○ NO ◉

Watch Commander / Supervising Lieutenant

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle I.	Rank
[redacted]	Dinh	Minh	G.	Lt.

Watch Commander / Supervising Lieutenant's **Signature**: [signature] Date: 8/7/19 Copy Provided to Employee by: ______ Emp #: ______

Unit Commander **(Print Name)**: [redacted] Unit Commander's **Signature**: ______ Emp #: ______ Date: ______

FO#

☐ PPI REVIEW COMPLETED

Original: Discovery Unit
Copy: Unit Commander

SH-R-438P (Rev. 01/13)

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force
SUSPECT INFORMATION

919 - 04866 - 0492 - 054

Suspect Information

S 1

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Armed? Select
Romero	Delmi	Azusena	Not Armed

AKA Last Name | First Name | Middle Name

Sex	Race	Age	Height	Weight	D.O.B	Phone #1: ○ H ○ W ◉ C	Phone #2: ○ H ○ W ○ C
○ Male ◉ Female	H	25	5'	160	08/07/93	[redacted]	

Street Address: [redacted] City: [redacted] State & Zip Code: [redacted]

Booking #: 5591478 Primary Charge Code: 245(a)(4) PC Secondary Charge Code: 243(b) PC ☒ Criminal History

Treated on Scene? ◉ YES ○ NO Name: Robert Villa Unit: LA Co. Fire Phone #: (562) 698-7333

Hospital Admission? ☒ Rec'd Treatment At: Whittier Hospital Coroner Case #: Mental History ☐ User's guide provides direction on this entry

By: Dr. Sammy Chan Address: 9080 Colima Road, Whittier 90605 Phone #: (562) 945-3561

Under Influence: ◉ YES ○ NO Substance: Alcohol 5150 a factor in force? ○ YES ○ NO User's guide provides direction on this entry

Suspect Interview

Date: 04/05/2019 Time: 0137 hr. ☐ Audiotape: ☒ Videotape: ☐ Photos of Injuries: ☐ ADMITS HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suspect Information

S_

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Armed? Select

AKA Last Name | First Name | Middle Name

Sex	Race	Age	Height	D.O.B.	Weight	Phone #1: ○ H ○ W ○ C	Phone #2: ○ H ○ W ○ C
○ Male ○ Female							

Street Address: City: State & Zip Code:

Booking #: Primary Charge Code: Secondary Charge Code: ☐ Criminal History

Treated on Scene? ○ YES ○ NO By: Unit: Phone #:

Hospital Admission? ☐ Rec'd Treatment At: Coroner Case #: Mental History ☐ User's guide provides direction on this entry

By: Address: Phone #:

Under Influence: ○ YES ○ NO Substance: 5150 a factor in force? ○ YES ○ NO User's guide provides direction on this entry

Suspect Interview

Date: Time: ☐ Audiotape: ☐ Videotape: ☐ Photos of Injuries: ☐ ADMITS HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suspect Information

S_

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Armed? Select

AKA Last Name | First Name | Middle Name

Sex	Race	Age	Height	D.O.B.	Weight	Phone #1: ○ H ○ W ○ C	Phone #2: ○ H ○ W ○ C
○ Male ○ Female							

Street Address: City: State & Zip Code:

Booking #: Primary Charge Code: Secondary Charge Code: ☐ Criminal History

Treated on Scene? ○ YES ○ NO By: Unit: Phone #:

Hospital Admission? ☐ Rec'd Treatment At: Coroner Case #: Mental History ☐ User's guide provides direction on this entry

By: Address: Phone #:

Under Influence: ○ YES ○ NO Substance: 5150 a factor in force? ○ YES ○ NO User's guide provides direction on this entry

Suspect Interview

Date: Time: ☐ Audiotape: ☐ Videotape: ☐ Photos of Injuries: ☐ ADMITS HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

☐ **Additional Suspects Involved**

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force
EMPLOYEE / NON-EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

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Employee Witnesses

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Unit of Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):	Shift:	
Norwalk Station	Unit 48A	○ EM ○ Day ◉ PM	◉ Regular ○ OT ○ Off Duty

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	Lew	Jarrett	M.

Unit of Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):	Shift:	
Norwalk	Unit 46K4	○ EM ○ Day ◉ PM	◉ Regular ○ OT ○ Off Duty

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Unit of Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):	Shift:	
		○ EM ○ Day PM	○ Regular ○ OT ○ Off Duty

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
[redacted]	[redacted]		-	Adult

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone #1	Phone #2
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
[redacted]	[redacted]		-	Adult

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone #1	Phone #2
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
[redacted]	[redacted]		-	Adult

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone #1	Phone #2
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone #1	Phone #2
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone #1	Phone #2
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone #1	Phone #2
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone #1	Phone #2

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone #1	Phone #2

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.

Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone #1	Phone #2

☐ **Additional Witness**

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force

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Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton: (Control)
(BI) Baton: (Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds: (Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds: (Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds: (Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(RO) Restraint Device (Other)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device: Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device: Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(IR) Less Lethal Impact Round (other)
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative
(HR) High Risk

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

Body Part Involved

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hands
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(NO) Nose
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

FORCE USED BY		FORCE USED AGAINST		Method (Code)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
Name	E# or S#	Name	E# or S#			
Romero	S1	Joseph	E1	UC	NN	
Romero	S1	Joseph	E1	PP	NN	CH
Joseph	E1	Romero	S1	CT	NN	AR
Romero	S1	Joseph	E1	PH	NN	CH
[redacted]	E3	Romero	S2	CT	NN	AR
Jaime	E2	Romero	S1	CT	NN	AR
Romero	S1	[redacted]	E3	RS	NN	HA
Romero	S1	[redacted]	E2	RS	NN	HA
Romero	S1	Joseph	E1	RS	NN	HA
[redacted]	E3	Romero	S1	RH	NN	AR
Joseph	E1	Romero	S1	RH	FR	AR

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INCIDENT:	**Category 3 Use of Force (Broken Humerus)**
IAB FILE NUMBERS:	**FO2479958**
DIVISION / UNIT:	**South Patrol Division / Norwalk Station**
DATE / TIME:	**Thursday, April 4, 2019 / 2100 Hours**
LOCATION:	**[redacted] Colima Road, Whittier (unincorporated)**
SUSPECT:	**Delmi Romero, FH/25, DOB: 08/07/93, Booking #5591478**
INVOLVED PERSONNEL:	**Deputy Joseph Perez #[redacted]** **Deputy [redacted] #[redacted]** **Deputy [redacted] #[redacted]**

SYNPOSIS

On April 5, 2019, the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Force/Shooting Response Team comprised of Lieutenant James Powers, Sergeant Henry Ortega and Sergeant Thomas Inocente responded to Norwalk Station regarding a Category 3 use of force. The incident resulted in the hospitalization of Suspect Delmi Romero, who was diagnosed with a fractured right humerus at Whittier Hospital Medical Center. Suspect Romero was transported to the Los Angeles County Medical Center for booking. The incident was documented under URN 919-04866-0492-054 **[Exhibit A]**.

CASE SUMMARY:

On April 4, 2019, Deputies [redacted] (Deputy [redacted] and [redacted] (Deputy [redacted] were assigned to Norwalk Station as unit 48B. Unit 48B was designated to patrol the unincorporated jurisdiction of Los Angeles County near South Whittier. On this date, Deputy [redacted] was in [redacted] and Deputy [redacted] was his [redacted]

Deputies [redacted] (Deputy [redacted]) and Joseph Perez (Deputy Joseph Perez) were also assigned to Norwalk Station, as unit 48A. Unit 48A was designated to patrol the unincorporated jurisdiction of Los Angeles County near South Whittier. On the day of the incident, Deputy Joseph Perez was in [redacted] and Deputy [redacted] was his [redacted]

On April 4, 2019, at approximately 2100 hours, Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] (unit 48B) and Deputies [redacted] and Joseph Perez (unit 48A) were dispatched to a family disturbance call, tag 335, at [redacted] Colima Road, Whittier, a single family house **[Exhibit B]**. Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] the handling unit, arrived seconds before Deputies [redacted] and Joseph Perez.

At the location, the deputies contacted Delmi Romero (Suspect Romero), a female Hispanic, on the sidewalk in front of the residence. She appeared to be agitated and deputies detected an odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from her person. Suspect Romero indicated she did not live at the location, but was there to get her two minor sons, [redacted] and [redacted] from their [redacted] [redacted] ([redacted]).

Standing cordially next to Suspect Romero, was [redacted] (Witness [redacted] [redacted], Mr. [redacted] Witness [redacted] lived at the location with her [redacted] and their [redacted] [redacted] (Witness [redacted]). The deputies then contacted and questioned [redacted] and his current [redacted] [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) by the front door of the house. [redacted] and [redacted] the two [redacted] had entered the house upon the deputies' arrival.

After speaking to the involved parties, the deputies established the disturbance emanated from a custody dispute between Mr. [redacted] and his [redacted] Suspect Romero. Although they were no longer in a dating relationship, they had three children together: [redacted] Suspect Romero lived separately from Mr. [redacted] but they shared custody without the mandate of a court order. Over the previous several days, Suspect Romero had been unable to reach Mr. [redacted] for the return of [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] the youngest child, was not a factor in this incident.

Additionally, the deputies learned the disturbance started when earlier in the evening, Suspect Romero received a text message from Witness [redacted] The message stated [redacted] and [redacted] had just arrived at the house with Mr. [redacted] Upon receiving the information, Suspect Romero immediately responded to the location. Once there, she saw a black Honda Civic parked on the front lawn **[Exhibit C, photo 1]**. Inside the vehicle were [redacted] and [redacted] with Mr. [redacted] and Witness [redacted]

> **IAB Note:** The 2019, black Honda Civic, California license plate # [redacted] was registered to Witness [redacted]

Suspect Romero walked to the passenger side of the Honda Civic, and opened the rear door, where the two minors were seated. At that point, Witness [redacted] intervened and Suspect Romero and Witness [redacted] began fighting. During the altercation Suspect Romero bit Witness [redacted] on the hand, and Witness [redacted] called the Sheriff's Department for help **[Exhibit A]**.

After speaking with the disturbing parties, the two [redacted] (Deputies [redacted] and Rodriguez) entered the residence to check on the welfare of [redacted] and [redacted] Prior to entering, they advised Deputies Joseph Perez and [redacted] of their intention. Simultaneously, as Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] entered the house, personnel from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Station 59, arrived. Deputy Joseph Perez, who remained outside with Deputy [redacted] escorted the firefighters to the porch. There, on the steps, the firefighters evaluated Witness [redacted] injuries.

In the meantime, Deputy [redacted] spoke to Witness [redacted] and Suspect Romero by the sidewalk close to the street. During the conversation, Suspect Romero stepped away from Deputy [redacted] stating she had trash to throw away. Suspect Romero then began walking toward the front door of the house, drawing the attention of Deputy Joseph Perez. Deputy Joseph Perez, who was still assisting firefighters, stepped in the suspect's path a few feet from the front door, and denied her entry into the house. Suspect Romero pushed Deputy Joseph Perez on the left side of his chest, and attempted to go around him. Deputy Joseph Perez, although knocked back, stopped Suspect Romero by gripping his left hand on her right triceps and ushering her away. Almost immediately, Suspect Romero began to resist, attempting to push her way past Deputy Joseph Perez. Deputy Joseph Perez gave Suspect Romero commands to stop, as he placed a firm grip on her right arm. Using her free arm, Suspect Romero punched Deputy Joseph Perez on left side of his chest.

Deputy [redacted] from the sidewalk, heard the commotion and ran to assist Deputy Joseph Perez. Deputy [redacted] concurrently responded from inside the house. Deputy [redacted] arrived and placed a grip on the suspect's left arm with his left hand. When the hold failed, Deputy [redacted] partner, Deputy [redacted] moved in and placed a firm grip on her left arm. Suspect Romero continued to resist while Deputies Joseph Perez and [redacted] maneuvered her arms behind her back for handcuffing. During that process, and while Suspect Romero tensed and straightened her arms in resistance, the deputies heard a "popping" sound come from Suspect Romero's proximity. Suspect Romero reacted in pain, stating "Ow," and the deputies moved her hands behind her back without further resistance. Deputy [redacted] then placed her in handcuffs.

The deputies escorted Suspect Romero to the backseat of the patrol car where she complained of pain to her right arm. Since firefighters were already on scene, they immediately contacted Suspect Romero and evaluated her injury. Her right arm was placed in a splint and an ambulance was called to the scene.

Suspect Romero was transported to Whittier Hospital Medical Center, located at 9080 Colima Road, Whittier. Doctor Sammy Chan diagnosed and treated Suspect Romero for a fracture to the right mid-shaft humerus and swelling of the right arm **[Exhibit D]**.

After being medically cleared for booking by Whittier Hospital Medical Center, Suspect Romero was transported to the Los Angeles County Medical Center jail ward, where

she was booked on the indicated charges. Refer to page 6, Criminal Investigation Charges, of the investigative summary for additional information.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL/WORK HISTORY:

JOSEPH PEREZ

Deputy Sheriff, Employee #[redacted]
South Patrol Division/Norwalk Station - Patrol

Date of Employment:	05/09/2016
Date assigned to NWK:	02/17/2019
Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]
Prior Shooting Incident(s):	[redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incident(s):	[redacted]

[redacted]

Deputy Sheriff, Employee #[redacted]
South Patrol Division/ Norwalk Station - Patrol

Date of Employment:	07/11/2013
Date assigned to NWK:	05/01/2016
Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]
Prior Shooting Incident(s):	[redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incident(s):	[redacted]

[redacted]

Deputy Sheriff, Employee #[redacted]
South Patrol Division/Norwalk Station - Patrol

Date of Employment:	11/06/2016
Date assigned to NWK:	02/17/2019
Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]
Prior Shooting Incident(s):	[redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incident(s):	[redacted]

IAB Note: Deputy [redacted] joined the Department as a [redacted] on 01/24/2008. He was promoted to Deputy Sheriff on 11/06/2016.

SUSPECT INFORMATION

ROMERO, DELMI FH/25, DOB 08/07/93, 501, 160 LBS., Booking #5591478
CII #[redacted] MAIN [redacted] FBI #[redacted]

A check of CCHRS/CII (Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System/Criminal Information Index) revealed Suspect Delmi Romero had one [redacted] in 2017 for [redacted] and [redacted] Suspect Romero had no previous convictions **[Miscellaneous Documents]**.

WITNESSES

EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

Deputy [redacted]

NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

Joshua Manley
Robert Villa
Mike Hetrick
[redacted]

INJURIES:

Suspect Romero sustained a 'shaft fracture' to her right humerus **[Exhibit D, p. 5, 8-10]**. She was seen by Physician's Assistant Crystal Teng, and Doctor Sammy Chan of Whittier Hospital Medical Center on April 5, 2019.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

The only physical evidence collected during the criminal investigation was a cellphone, which was related to the petty theft allegation. IAB investigators evaluated the scene and saw no items of evidentiary value.

INVESTIGATORS' OBSERVATIONS:

IAB investigators evaluated and photographed the scene **[Exhibit C]**. The location was a single family house with a shallow front yard bearing tall weed undergrowth. The house was situated on a narrow residential street.

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

None.

WEAPONS USED BY THE SUSPECT:

None.

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

None.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION CHARGES:

Investigator's Name:	Norwalk Station Detective Mayra Duarte #[redacted]
Court:	Downey
Charges Filed:	245(a)(4) PC, 594(a) PC, 484(a) PC, 243(b) PC, and 148(a)(1) PC.
DA Case Number:	DOW9DN03275

On April 8, 2019, Detective Duarte submitted the criminal case against Suspect Romero for filing consideration with the District Attorney's Office. Suspect Romero was charged with the above listed misdemeanor violations, by Deputy District Attorney Shields. During her arraignment, Suspect Romero entered a plea negotiation and was convicted of misdemeanor, assault likely to create great bodily injury 245(a)(4) PC, and misdemeanor battery on a peace officer 243(b) PC. The remaining counts were dismissed pursuant to the plea negotiation. Suspect Romero was sentenced to 30 days in county jail and 36 months summary probation. Refer to Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS), page 3, in the **Miscellaneous Documents** section of this casebook.

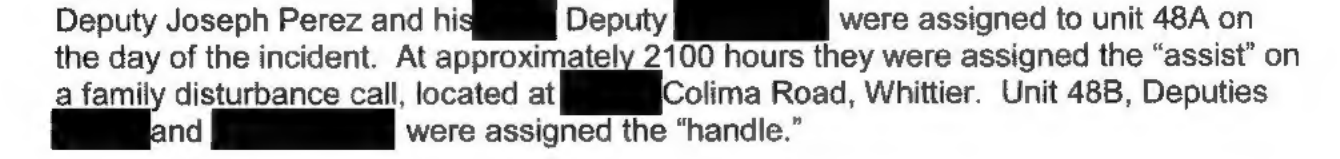
LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Darkness, dry and cool temperatures.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEES' STATEMENTS:

Internal Affairs Bureau investigators interviewed the below personnel and witnesses. The following is a summary of their interviews. For more information and precise wording, see attached verbatim interview transcripts.

DEPUTY JOSEPH PEREZ



Deputy Joseph Perez and his [redacted] Deputy [redacted] were assigned to unit 48A on the day of the incident. At approximately 2100 hours they were assigned the "assist" on a family disturbance call, located at [redacted] Colima Road, Whittier. Unit 48B, Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] were assigned the "handle."

Deputies Joseph Perez and [redacted] unit 48A, arrived on scene and contacted Mr. [redacted] and Witness [redacted] by the porch of the residence. Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] unit 48B, contacted Suspect Romero and Witness [redacted] by the sidewalk. Each of the deputies began taking statements from the involved parties.

After gathering information, Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] (the two [redacted], decided check on the minors inside the house. Deputies Joseph Perez and [redacted] (the [redacted] remained outside to provide security, at which time, paramedics arrived on scene. The firefighters contacted Witness [redacted] to evaluate her injury. Deputy Joseph Perez assisted paramedics by illuminating Witness [redacted] hand by the front door. Out of the corner of his eye, Deputy Joseph then saw Suspect Romero walking near the driveway of the property, rapidly approaching his position. Of her intent, he was not certain.

Believing Suspect Romero may enter the home, and because Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] were inside conducting an investigation, Deputy Joseph Perez stepped in Suspect Romero's path. In response, Suspect Romero stated, "Get out of my way. I'm going inside the house." Deputy Joseph Perez replied, "No you can't…my partners are conducting an investigation."

Deputy Joseph Perez said what happened next, was unexpected. Suspect Romero pushed him on the chest with her left hand and attempted to walk by. Although knocked back, Deputy Joseph Perez extended his left arm, and employed a control hold, gripping Suspect Romero's right triceps with his left hand. He then escorted her away from the front door toward the parked van in the driveway. Suspect Romero began to resist, as she spun around—Deputy Joseph Perez still holding her arm—and punched him on the chest with her left fist. Deputy Joseph Perez ordered Suspect Romero to stop during the altercation, but she failed to comply and yelled at him using profane language.

Seconds after the confrontation began, Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] arrived from their respective positions. Deputy [redacted] using his hands, immediately took hold of Suspect Romero's left arm. Deputy Joseph Perez, meanwhile, using his left hand on Suspect Romero's right triceps and his right hand on her right wrist, attempted to move the suspect's arm behind her back to for handcuffing. In resistance, Suspect Romero forced her arms downward, stepped side to side, dropped her body weight, and moved against the van. She then attempted to push off the vehicle with her legs.

IAB Note: Deputy Joseph said none of the deputies ever threw Suspect Romero against the parked van as alleged by Suspect Romero.

In order to gain control of Suspect Romero, Deputy Joseph Perez grabbed Suspect Romero's right wrist with his left hand and pushed her right shoulder forward with his right hand. This enabled him to start moving her right arm back for handcuffing. Deputy

[redacted] meanwhile, still holding Suspect Romero's left arm, began moving her arm behind her back with an unknown grip. It was during these moments, Suspect Romero still tensing her arms, that Deputy Joseph Perez heard a popping sound. He was not sure from where the sound came, so he held Suspect Romero's right wrist, and allowed Deputy [redacted] to handcuff the suspect.

After Suspect Romero was handcuffed, either Deputies [redacted] or [redacted] escorted Suspect Romero to the patrol car. Deputy Joseph Perez asked the firefighters to evaluate her due to the suspect's potential injury.

DEPUTY [redacted]

[redacted] Deputy [redacted] and his [redacted] Deputy [redacted] were assigned to unit 48B when they responded to a call for service at the location. Their assisting unit was 48A, Deputies [redacted] and Joseph Perez. When Deputy [redacted] and Deputy [redacted] arrived, Suspect Romero and Witness [redacted] were in front of the residence by the street. Deputy [redacted] contacted Suspect Romero, who stated she was at the location to pick up her children.

After listening to her account, Deputy [redacted] contacted Mr. [redacted] and Witness [redacted] by the front door. While taking their statements, Deputy [redacted] heard [redacted] and [redacted] inside the house. He and Deputy [redacted] entered the home to check on the children's' welfare, while Deputies Joseph Perez and [redacted] remained outside.

After a couple of minutes, Deputy [redacted] heard a female screaming, "Fuck you," while Deputy Joseph Perez stated, "Stop resisting. Stop fighting. Put your hands behind your back." Deputy [redacted] immediately ran outside and saw Deputy Joseph Perez gaining control of Suspect Romero's right arm, using a firm grip with one or both of his hands. Suspect Romero's left arm "violently" swung back, in an apparent attempt to strike Deputy Joseph Perez.

Deputy [redacted] reacted and placed a grip on Suspect Romero's left arm with both of his hands and attempted to move her arm back for handcuffing. Deputy [redacted] said he most likely gripped the suspect's left wrist with one of his hands and her left bicep with his other hand. He could not recall the specifics because it happened so fast. Deputy [redacted] then ordered Suspect Romero to place her arms behind her back and stop resisting. Suspect Romero yelled, "Fuck you guys," as she flailed and tightened her arms. Deputies [redacted] and Joseph Perez, using their respective holds, were able to move Suspect Romero's hands into handcuffing position behind her back. Deputy [redacted] then placed the handcuffs on the suspect. After being handcuffed, Suspect Romero complained of pain, and was treated by paramedics.

Deputy [redacted] said he did not have a recollection of pinning the suspect against the parked car in the driveway or using it as leverage. The use of force did occur by the front end of the van, within a foot of the vehicle.

DEPUTY [redacted]

Deputy [redacted] and his [redacted] unit 48B, arrived on scene and saw Suspect Romero on the sidewalk in front of the residence. She was yelling profanities and emitted the odor of an alcoholic beverage. She explained she was there for her kids, but when the deputies asked for a custody order, she said, "I don't have shit." Unit 48A, Deputies [redacted] and Joseph Perez, arrived moments later.

[redacted] instructed Deputies [redacted] and Joseph Perez to stay with Suspect Romero and Witness [redacted] by the street. Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] then contacted Mr [redacted] and Witness [redacted] by the front door. A short time later, Deputy [redacted] advised Deputies Joseph Perez and [redacted] that they ([redacted] and [redacted]) were going inside the house to check on the children.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel arrived to evaluate Witness [redacted] injury. Deputy Joseph Perez escorted the paramedics to Witness [redacted] location at the front door. Deputy [redacted] continued talking to Witness [redacted] while Suspect Romero stood next to him. During that conversation, Suspect Romero walked away, stating she was throwing something away in the trashcan. Deputy [redacted] continued his conversation with [redacted] but a moment later he heard a female yelling, "Fuck you. Don't touch me." Deputy [redacted] turned and saw Suspect Romero by the front door, where she pushed and punched Deputy Joseph Perez on the chest. Deputy Joseph Perez then used his hands to effect a grip on Suspect Romero's right arm.

Deputy [redacted] ran to assist and using his left hand, he placed a grip on Suspect Romero's left biceps. Suspect Romero then flailed her arm and threw Deputy [redacted] hand off. At that point, Deputy [redacted] partner, Deputy [redacted] stepped in and placed a grip on the suspect's left arm with both hands. He (Deputy [redacted]) gave Suspect Romero commands to relax and stop resisting, but she squirmed and flailed her body from left to right. From a standing position, Deputies [redacted] and Joseph leaned some of their weight against Romero and pressed her against a parked car in the driveway. Still gripping the suspect's arms, Deputies [redacted] and Joseph Perez moved her arms back enough allowing Deputy [redacted] to put the handcuffs on.

Deputy [redacted] said moments before the actual application of handcuffs he heard a popping sound, but he was not sure from where the sound came. He thought for a second Suspect Romero's glasses may have fallen off and shattered on the ground. After Suspect Romero was handcuffed, Deputy [redacted] escorted Suspect Romero to a patrol car where she was evaluated and treated by paramedics.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

DEPUTY [redacted]

[redacted] Deputy [redacted] and Deputy Joseph Perez, unit 48A, arrived at the location in response to a call for service. Once there, Deputy [redacted] directed Deputy [redacted] to contact Mr. [redacted] by the front door. Deputy [redacted] walked over to Mr. [redacted] and Witness [redacted] and noticed the two minors, [redacted] and [redacted] hanging around the front door. Deputy [redacted] directed them go inside the house with their grandmother, Witness [redacted]

After speaking with Mr. [redacted] Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] walked into the house to check on the two minors. While inside, Deputy [redacted] walked into the children's bedroom to evaluate its condition. He then heard the sound of a female screaming outside. Deputy [redacted] responded to the source of the sound in the front yard, and saw Deputies [redacted] Joseph Perez and [redacted] in the final moments of handcuffing the suspect. Deputy [redacted] applied the handcuffs while Deputy Joseph Perez held Suspect Romero's right arm, and Deputy [redacted] held the left arm. Deputy [redacted] did not see any resistance by Suspect Romero, nor did he witness the use of force by deputy personnel.

Deputy [redacted] escorted Suspect Romero to his patrol car and she complained of pain to her arm. The on-scene paramedics responded to Suspect Romero and treated her for her injury.

DEPUTY JARRETT LEW

Deputy Lew was contacted by personnel from the Norwalk Station desk and tasked with driving to the location. When he arrived, Suspect Romero was inside an ambulance. Deputy Lew followed the ambulance to the hospital and provided security for the suspect. He did not witness the use of force.

NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES STATEMENTS

WITNESS JOSHUA MANLEY

Witness Manley was a Captain with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, assigned to Station 59 in Whittier. On April 4, 2019, at 2101 hours his station received a call of a person being bitten. When they arrived to [redacted] Colima Road, Whittier, deputies were already on scene.

Witness Manley contacted the "patient," Witness [redacted] at the steps of the house. Witness Manley said while his "crew" took Witness [redacted] "vitals," Suspect Romero and Mr. [redacted] were yelling at each other. Witness Manley then saw Suspect Romero coming toward his position by the front door. Witness Manley, who was intermittently focused on Witness [redacted] looked up and Suspect Romero was

trying to free herself from a deputy's grasp. That maneuver was described as Suspect Romero moving her body, or shoulders, while a deputy held onto her arm. Because Witness Manley was focused on Witness [redacted] he did not see any other details. After the deputies gained control of Suspect Romero, they escorted her to a patrol car. Captain Manley heard the suspect complain of pain, so he asked the deputies if he could examine her. Captain Manley examined Suspect Romero and saw she had a deformity on her right arm. The firefighters placed her right arm in a splint, and facilitated her transportation to the hospital via ambulance.

Captain Manley was re-interviewed by IAB investigators on August 21, 2019, at 1:51 PM, over the phone, to clarify the "grasp" he saw.

WITNESS ROBERT VILLA

Witness Villa was a firefighter for the Los Angeles County Fire Department, assigned to Station 59. On the day of the incident, he was at the location for a bite call. While checking Witness [redacted] vitals, Witness Villa noticed Suspect Romero was belligerent and drunk. The deputies were "kind of" controlling the scene, but Suspect Romero was "going off," and being loud. Witness Villa recalled Suspect Romero taking a swing and at Deputy Joseph Perez. The deputy defended himself by grabbing her arm, and saying, "Stop, stop." Witness Villa focused his attention back toward Witness [redacted] and Suspect Romero was eventually escorted to a patrol car. Witness Villa was informed Suspect Romero had pain in her arm, so he responded to her position and provided treatment.

WITNESS MIKE HETRICK

Witness Hetrick was a firefighter with Station 59 and responded to the location for a call on April 4, 2019. He was treating Witness [redacted] by the steps of the house when Suspect Romero "kind of" walked around them (firefighters). Suspect Romero was within arm's reach of Witness Hetrick, and she was mad. Witness Hetrick recalled Suspect Romero chest bumping one of the deputies in a challenging manner. Suspect Romero and the deputies were in a little struggle near the driveway of the location, but Witness Hetrick could did not see everything as he was facing the house, tending to Witness [redacted] He did say he was surprised that Suspect Romero had broken her arm during the incident.

Witness Mike Hetrick was re-interviewed by IAB investigators on August 21, 2019, at 1:56 PM to clarify what he meant when during his original IAB interview, he said the deputies had a "little struggle" with Suspect Romero by the driveway. Witness Hetrick said he did not actually witness a physical confrontation by the driveway, but saw the deputies within arm's reach of the suspect, and the suspect was irate. Witness Hetrick said he saw nothing else beyond that because he was focused on the patient.

WITNESS [redacted]

On the day of the incident, Witness [redacted] confirmed she was the person who notified Suspect Romero that Mr. [redacted] had arrived home with [redacted] and [redacted] She felt Suspect Romero was better suited to care for her nephews than her brother due to his homelessness, mental condition, and marijuana use.

When Suspect Romero arrived at the location, she attempted to get her children from the car. Witness [redacted] then initiated a physical fight with Suspect Romero, and Witness [redacted] called 9-1-1.

When the deputies arrived, they separated everyone. A few minutes later, Suspect Romero walked toward the porch and a deputy met her there. The deputy told Suspect Romero, "Ma'am, you can't go in the house, you can't go in there." Suspect Romero said she just wanted to see her boys, and they collided. The deputy then grabbed Suspect Romero's arms with his hands, pushed her against the hood of the van (parked in the driveway) and handcuffed her.

Suspect Romero resisted but the amount of force the deputies used was not warranted in Witness [redacted] opinion. She said the deputies had Suspect Romero pinned against the car. This was described as one deputy standing right next to the suspect, after the deputy had her against the car. The other deputies arrived and they also stood next to her so that she could not move. As Witness [redacted] stated, "they were four grown men and she was a 140 pound woman."

WITNESS [redacted]

Witness [redacted] son, [redacted] was not allowed in the house and slept outside in a vehicle on Colima Road. On the day of the incident he parked a vehicle on the front lawn with his girlfriend and his two sons. The mother of the children, Suspect Romero, had been looking for her children for weeks.

> **IAB Note:** The children were never reported missing with the authorities.

When the deputies arrived, Witness [redacted] took [redacted] and [redacted] inside the living room, on the advice of the deputies. While still inside the home, Witness [redacted] heard something going on outside. She heard Suspect Romero yelling, possibly in pain and the sound of an ambulance, and did hear the deputies giving Suspect Romero commands. Witness [redacted] never saw what happened between the deputies and Suspect Romero.

WITNESS [redacted]

Witness [redacted] said she was assaulted by Suspect Romero at the location and they were involved in a physical altercation. **Refer to page 2-4 of Witness**

[redacted] **IAB transcribed interview.** She did not see what happened between Suspect Romero and deputy personnel.

SUSPECT STATEMENTS

SUSPECT DELMI ROMERO

NORWALK FIELD SERGEANT INTERVIEW

On April 4, 2019, Sergeant Oscar Rodriguez #[redacted] Norwalk Sheriff Station, interviewed Suspect Romero in the field after the use of force incident. Suspect Romero told Sergeant Rodriguez she was at the location to get her children. While there, Witness [redacted] attacked her, and Suspect Romero defended herself.

Initially, nobody told Suspect Romero she was not allowed inside the house. When she attempted to enter the location, the "cop" told her she was not allowed. Suspect Romero told him, "Those are my kids so I could go inside." The other three cops then decided to move her hands behind her back and somewhere in the "tussle" her arm broke **[Exhibit E: NWK interview of Romero]**.

IAB INTERVIEW

On April 5, 2019, at 1:37 a.m., IAB investigators interviewed Delmi Romero at Whittier Hospital Medical Center.

Suspect Romero said her ex-sister-in-law, Witness [redacted] called her and notified her that [redacted] and [redacted] had just arrived at the location. Suspect Romero responded to the residence, and attempted to get her children. Witness [redacted] intervened and began pulling her hair. The deputies were then called to the location.

When the deputies arrived they detained everybody outside. Nobody ever told her she could not enter her [redacted] house, a residence in which she was welcome. So, while the deputies were speaking to the other parties, she walked to the front door with the intent of going around Deputy Joseph Perez. She tried to enter the house when Deputy Joseph Perez saw her approaching and blocked her.

Suspect Romero was not struggling with the deputy, but was "trying…to get away from them." Then two additional deputies arrived, and she kept telling them to stop because her arm hurt. The deputies then snapped it back. The deputies arrested her even though her arm was broken, and put her inside a patrol car. She was un-handcuffed and firefighters treated her at the scene **[Exhibit E: IAB interview of Romero]**.

On August 22, 2019, IAB investigator(s) drove to [redacted] and contacted Suspect Romero for a follow-up interview. IAB investigators asked Ms. Romero if during her physical altercation with Witness [redacted] her right arm was

injured in any way. Suspect Romero said no. IAB investigators also asked Suspect Romero what she meant when during her first IAB interview she said deputies "snapped" her arm back. Suspect Romero said during the incident a deputy threw her against the car, and took control of her left arm. Two or three additional deputies placed a grip on her right arm. The deputies who held her right arm began moving it in different ways, and her (right) arm snapped and broke. Suspect Romero said she did not know how or where on her arm the deputies placed their grip. She also said at no time did she resist the deputies.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

During the course of this investigation, IAB investigators called the Department of Children and Family Services. IAB investigators confirmed a notification into this matter was made by Norwalk Station personnel. Department of Children and Family Services indicated the matter was originally reported by Detective Mayra Duarte of Norwalk Station on April 5, 2019, and a Department of Children and Family Services case was opened.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IAB Investigators knocked at the door of the following residences for witnesses and none came forward:

10331 Colima Road, Whittier 90604
10403 Colima Road, Whittier 90604
10417 Colima Road, Whittier 90604
10429 Colima Road, Whittier 90604